

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 14-16 are allowed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 are currently amended.

The undersigned spoke by telephone with Examiner Marsh and his supervisor regarding this amendment on July 16. The Examiner's supervisor discovered an additional piece of prior art, U.S. Patent Number 4,358,635, and proposed an amendment to claim 1 which would render claim 1 allowable over all of the art of record, including U.S. Patent Number 4,358,635. The amendment proposed by the Examiner's supervisor is reproduced as follows:

1. An apparatus for suspending a fixture in conjunction with a wire, said apparatus comprising:
 - ~~an~~ a substantially L-shaped angle bracket having a first flange and a second flange;
 - said first flange lying in a first plane and said second flange lying in a second plane which is not parallel to said first plane,
 - said first flange defining a hole adapted to receive a fastener,
 - said second flange having structure adapted to receive an end of the wire,
 - said structure having a pair of closed loops struck out from a side of said second flange whereby the axis of the opening of the loops is parallel to the second flange and being crimpable upon the end of the wire to secure the wire to said second flange with the wire extending in a direction which forms an angle with said first plane and is not parallel with said first plane.

The undersigned proposed an alternative amendment to the Examiner on July 22 and asked the Examiner to show the alternative to his supervisor and get approval for it.

However, the Examiner has been unable to obtain an opinion from his supervisor in time for this amendment.

The amendment made herein to claims 1 and 10 is substantially the same as proposed by the Examiner's supervisor with two differences. The "substantially L-shaped" limitation was not included and the "pair of closed loops" was changed to "at least one closed loop". The first change was made so that the embodiments of Figs. 12 and 13 would not be excluded from coverage. The second change was made so that the embodiment of Fig. 7 would not be excluded. It is believed that the amendment made herein is sufficiently close to the amendment proposed by the Examiner's supervisor that it will still satisfy the Examiner's supervisor and render all of the claims allowable.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. A. Gallagher', is written over the printed name.

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